

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and technique for allowing wireless electronic badges to temporarily establish a wireless network (e.g., a piconet network) with a network security station mounted in a facility of an employer, a gym, a membership club, etc. The wireless electronic badges automatically exchange user code with the network security station, and receives relevant badge information for display and use by that particular secured facility. In a preferred embodiment, BLUETOOTH technology is used in the wireless piconet front ends of the electronic wireless badge and the network security station. The disclosed electronic wireless badge includes an LCD display, a display controller, an information exchange module, and a wireless front end (e.g., a wireless piconet network such as a BLUETOOTH network). The electronic wireless badge includes a unique user code which is passed to the network security station. The network security station includes a complementary wireless front end, together with a database of user codes and badge display information for the properly authorized user codes. As an individual enters an area requiring identification, their electronic wireless badge exchanges a security code with the network security station, and upon proper authorization receives from the network security station appropriate badge display information for display. Exemplary display information may include, e.g., a photo of the authorized user corresponding to the authorization code in the electronic wireless badge, a name of the authorized user, an identification number, a company for which the displayed badge information relates, a membership type, a security level, etc.